

they deal with it, and is there any overlapping and so forth, so can we deal with that. But that was our goal and I think, as Senator Horgan said, we are going to have to revisit this issue again. Because, really, we are new into this business, and as we lower the threshold and redefine food, we really don't know at this time how much money will come in. So I again rise to support the amendment and LB 203.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body, I...most of what I had to say already Senator Hartnett has said, but I just want to reemphasize the fact that I think, as we move through this process and as this money becomes more and more available, we need to certainly take a look at how it is being spent and what it is being used for, and if need be in the future further legislation to direct that some of this money be used in the manner that we had anticipated it would be, not that we need to stand here and try to tell the Department of Environmental Quality how to run their business, but I think oversight doesn't hurt anybody, and I would hope that we would watch the use of this money and make sure that it is spent in the way that we intend it to be. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Does anyone else wish to speak to the committee amendments? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Beutler?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, I have no substantial closing. I think there has been a good discussion of the amendments and I think people understand that it's not perfect. It is the best that can be done at this point in time in the face of the imperfect information. But I do make a commitment to everybody that this will be reviewed at the end of the year and that the purpose of this is not to increase environmental funds, but simply to be sure that the transfer in the elimination of the tax is done equitably and if, in fact, it is done equitably or, that is, if it is not done equitably, if we are increasing, if we end up increasing environmental funds out of this, we will turn around next year and reduce the tax, the litter tax, so that it is made equitable. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. We will now vote on the committee amendments. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record,